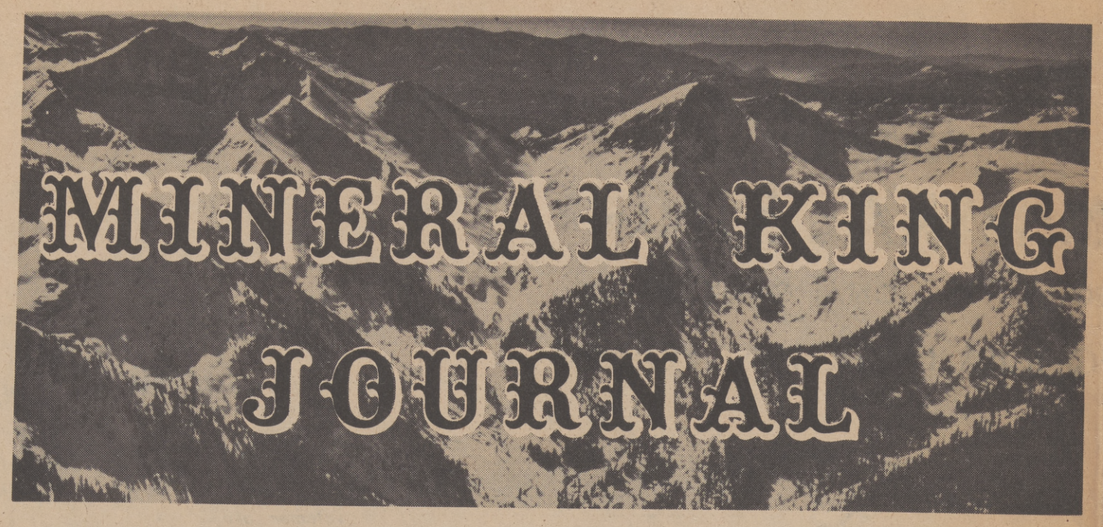

PUBLISHED BY SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST - 1978

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CALIFORNIA REGION

DON'T FEED THE BEARS!

Getting your week's supply of food ripped off by bears is bad enough but if the bear should smell the raisins you've stashed in your sleeping bag and you are also in the bag--you could be in trouble! In bear country the rule is: Hang all your food up in a tree at night at least 8 feet off the ground and at least 4 feet out on a small limb. Then camp well away from the food.

Bears that learn to eat visitors' food become scavengers dependent on man for food. This is unhealthy both for the bears and man. Bears and all other wild animals should not be fed.

GUN LAWS

Except during hunting season for deer and bear, firearms are prohibited in Mineral King (the Sequoia National Game Refuge). Firearms are prohibited at ALL times in the adjacent National Park.

OUR GOAL: TO BRING YOU THE FOREST VISITOR THE HIGHEST QUALITY RECREATION EXPERIENCE WE CAN. IT WILL TAKE CONSTANT WORK, TIME, YOUR PATIENCE AND HELP. YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOME.

HELP!!

We would like to draw your attention to the following items to help protect your National Forest and make everyone's visit more enjoyable.

1. Respect the rights of your fellow campers. A list of common courtesy rules can be found on the campground bulletin boards.
2. Camp and park only in designated areas. Please don't block other vehicles or damage the vegetation.
3. Clean fish away from open water. State laws prohibit you from cleaning fish in streams. Discarded fish parts should be buried in the ground where they can decompose.
4. Join our battle against litter. If you are going by a trash can anyway, why not pick up that piece of scrap and drop it in.
5. The trash is collected every day in late afternoon to discourage bears from coming into the campgrounds. You can help by putting away your food in a safe place before evening retirement and leaving a clean camp.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

U.S. FOREST SERVICE:

Mineral King	Mineral King No. 1 (Through Visalia Operator)
Springville	(209) 539-2607
Porterville	(209) 784-1500

TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF:

Visalia	Ask operator for Enterprise 11560

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Visalia	Ask Operator for Zenith 12000

KAWEAH DELTA HOSPITAL

Visalia	(209) 734-2211

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

Ash Mountain	(209) 565-3341

MINERAL KING--PAST AND PRESENT

The discovery of Mineral King, a 16,000 acre area of the Sequoia National Forest, was documented in 1864 by explorer Harry O'Farrell. Following exploration, mining became the main activity in Mineral King in the 1870's. The mining boom continued to grow with the coming of the New England Tunnel and Smelter Company in 1875. However, the ore mined was not sufficient to support the miners and most mining activity ceased in the 1880's.

Today recreation is the major activity in Mineral King. Forest visitors come to experience a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Campers use the Forest Service campground at Cold Springs that has 31 camp units. Hikers, backpackers, and horsemen use the 39 miles of trail leading from the valley to the high mountain lakes. Users may see a wide variety of vegetation as there are over 400 plant species in Mineral King. Meadows in the valley are interspersed with brush that extends up to forests of red and white fir and Jeffrey and lodgepole pine. At higher elevations you find barren and rocky terrain. The variety of vegetation affords excellent opportunities for the deer and bear hunter. All other species are protected in Mineral King. Fishermen are beckoned to the Mineral King area by the 21 high country lakes and 8 perennial streams which form the headwaters of the east fork of the Kaweah River.

Mineral King offers scenic views of the Sierra High Country. Sawtooth Peak, one of the most prominent features, rises to 12,343 feet. Farewell Gap, a V-shaped notch leading to the Little Kern drainage of the Sequoia National Forest, entices many photographers as do the 8 circques, deep-walled basins, that rim the south side of Mineral King Valley.

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

CAMPFIRES — A campfire permit is required if you build a campfire or use your stove or grill outside Cold Springs Campground. The campfire permit requires you to carry a shovel with a blade at least 5" x 7" with a handle at least 12" long and that you clear an area a minimum of 5 feet from your fire. The permit is free and can be obtained at any Forest Service Office including the Mineral King Station.

SPECIAL NOTE: Campfire permits are not required outside the special area in Mineral King Valley as the travel permit also serves as a campfire permit. Please remember also that within the special area you can not camp or picnic outside of Cold Springs campground or the picnic area across from Mineral King Station.

RANGER, WHERE CAN I GET A CABIN?

There are almost 100 cabins in Mineral King; 28 on private land and 67 in three separate tracts on National Forest land. The cabins on National Forest land are a private use of public land and are authorized by special use permit. Because of the increasing demand for uses of the National Forests by the general public, it is Forest Service policy that no new recreation residences be approved. The only way you can obtain a cabin on National Forest land is to purchase an existing recreation residence from a special use permittee.

"BACKCOUNTRY" TRAVEL — A permit is now required for travel outside the special area (see the map) in Mineral King Valley. Capacities have been set for destination points in Mineral King such as Franklin Lakes, Eagle, Monarch, etc. The capacities have been set to provide for a high quality recreation experience for the visitor.

If you travel from Mineral King into the Golden Trout Wilderness or the Sequoia National Park you must obtain a Wilderness Permit.

To avoid inconvenience to the visitor, the Forest Service and Park Service are cooperating to issue campfire permits, Mineral King "backcountry" permits and wilderness permits at the Mineral King Station. Information on the National Forests and Parks is also available at Mineral King Station.

PETS? YES, BUT . . .

The Sequoia National Game Refuge which includes Mineral King was established in 1926 to protect the area's wildlife from trespass. To protect the wildlife, ALL PETS must remain leashed in the Game Refuge. They may be taken on trails but on leash only. In the adjacent National Park, pets are prohibited at all times. If you are planning on an extended stay in Mineral King or a backpack trip into the adjacent Sequoia National Park, you might consider leaving your pet at home. Dogs are not permitted in hunting season.

SPECIAL AREAS:

CAMPING AND PARKING

To maintain safe conditions both to people and environment, vehicles are not permitted off the Mineral King road except in designated parking areas, summer home tracts, and campground areas.

THERE ARE NO TRAILER FACILITIES IN MINERAL KING BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE BOTH IN CAMPGROUND AREAS AND ON THE ACCESS ROAD.

Due to the popularity of Mineral King and the large number of people wishing to use the area, camping and parking in the valley is limited to 7 days.

PACK-IN . . . PACK-OUT

Pack-In. . .Pack-Out is the new watchword. If you carry it in, please carry it out. Go one step further and carry out trash that less thoughtful people have left behind.

WORLD'S LARGEST

The largest of all foxtail pines lives on the rocky slope above Timber Gap. This hardy tree has a circumference of 26.5 feet and height of 70 feet. For those who wish to see a foxtail pine without going to an elevation of 10,200 feet, there is a smaller foxtail in the Mineral King Valley floor.

S.N.G.R.

SNGR stands for Sequoia National Game Refuge. Mineral King is included in this Refuge which was established by Congress in 1926. The purpose of the Refuge is to protect the wildlife from trespass. By special regulation, deer and bear hunting is allowed in season but all other wildlife is protected. Congress authorized other uses of the Sequoia National Game Refuge if they did not conflict with the purpose of the Refuge. Recreation is one such use that has been permitted by the Secretary of Agriculture. That authorization is reflected by the many recreation activities now in Mineral King.

MINIMUM IMPACT

Minimum impact is an attitude that can lead to much enjoyment of the backcountry without seriously changing or damaging it. Here are some practices we recommend and ask for your full cooperation.

CAMP SITES should be on soil--never in meadows or soft areas that compact easily. Camp at least 100 feet from water or trails. Camping next to lakes and streams damages the shoreline vegetation needed to filter runoff water from rains and camping close to trails spoils the solitude experience of other forest users.

CONSTRUCTION of rock walls, log benches, lean-tos, large fireplaces, stream crossings, and other "improvements" detract from the backcountry character of the landscape.

GAS STOVES are recommended in the high country. The use of wood from dead and down trees is permitted. However, in the high country, wood is not in great supply. Leaving wood to rot benefits the environment by recycling nutrients into the soil.

SOAPS AND DETERGENTS (even bio-degradable ones) mess up lakes and streams. Wash in a container at least 100 feet from water sources and dispose of waste water away from streams or lakes, preferably on rocky soil.

SWITCHBACKS are expensive to construct and maintain. Cutting them hastens destructive trail erosion and can lead to injuries to yourself and others from dislodged rocks.

PACK AND SADDLE STOCK have the right-of-way on trails. Stand quietly, well off the trail to let a pack string past. Avoid sudden movements and don't touch the animals; if spooked they may injure you and the packer. To minimize damage to meadows, stock must not be picketed but allowed to graze freely. Some areas however have grazing limitations; check ahead.

HUMAN WASTE must be disposed of properly for esthetic as well as health reasons. Sanitation becomes a major problem especially in high altitude areas with heavy visitor use. In most areas, nature has provided a decomposition layer in the soil just below the surface. In this layer micro-organisms will recyle the waste. It is good practice to fill any holes with excavated material. At high elevations there may not be a decomposition layer. We recommend covering the waste with a thin layer of soil. This keeps the flies away yet allows the waste to dry out which kills any disease bacteria that may be present.

GROUP SIZE is limited to 25 or less. Large groups by sheer size tend to compact camp sites and often disrupt the landscape with "tent cities."

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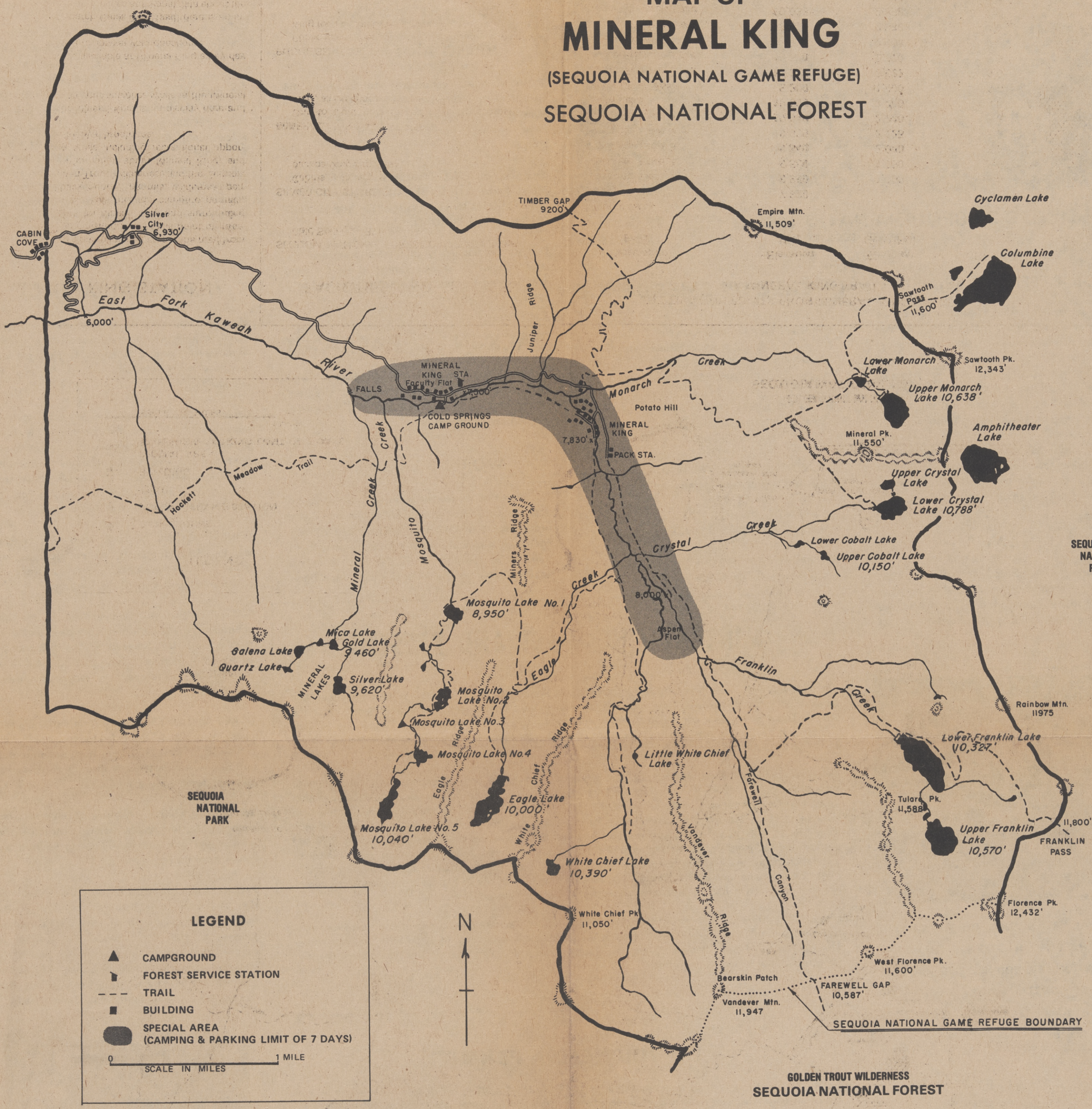
MAP OF
MINERAL KING
(SEQUOIA NATIONAL GAME REFUGE)
SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST



LEGEND

- CAMPGROUND
- FOREST SERVICE STATION
- TRAIL
- BUILDING
- SPECIAL AREA (CAMPING & PARKING LIMIT OF 7 DAYS)

0 — 1 MILE
SCALE IN MILES

MINERAL KING STATION

The Mineral King Station located across the road from Cold Springs Campground is the focal point of information for visitors to Mineral King and surrounding areas. Services available include: campfire permits, Mineral King "backcountry" permits, wilderness permits for the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Sequoia National Park, information about Mineral King, and the surrounding areas including recreational opportunities, and a variety of brochures.

A relief model of Mineral King is on display here and may help you plan your activities while in the Mineral King area.

A Forest Officer is available at Mineral King every day during the summer to answer your questions.

Also, at the Monarch Creek Trail Head there is an information kiosk that provides additional data about the environment of Mineral King.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUND:
Cold Springs -- 31 units -- fee: $2 daily.

SILVER CITY STORE:
Cabins, cafe, groceries, gas, showers, fishing, and backpacking supplies.

MINERAL KING PACK STATION:
One to eight hour guided rides, spot trips--trail rides, all expense pack trips.

PHONE SERVICE:
Public telephones are located at the end of Mineral King road and at Silver City store.

DESTINATION POINTS FROM MINERAL KING VALLEY VIA MINERAL KING TRAILS

Destination Point	Elevation (Ft.)	Elevation Gain (Ft.)	Distance (Miles)
Mineral King Valley	7,800	0	0
Mosquito Lake 1	8,950	1,150	4.5
Mosquito Lake 2	9,580	1,780	5.0
Mosquito Lake 3	9,840	2,040	5.2
Mosquito Lake 4	9,925	2,125	5.5
Mosquito Lake 5	10,040	2,240	5.8
Eagle Lake	10,000	2,200	4.0
White Chief Bowl	9,200	1,400	3.5
Lower Franklin Lake	10,327	2,527	6.0
Upper Franklin Lake	10,570	2,770	6.5
Lower Crystal Lake	10,788	2,988	5.0
Lower Monarch Lake	10,380	2,580	4.0
Upper Monarch Lake	10,638	2,838	4.5
Timber Gap	9,200	1,400	2.5
Sawtooth Pass	11,600	3,800	7.0
Franklin Pass	11,800	4,000	8.0
Farewell Gap	10,587	2,787	4.0

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